

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 05378 280929Z

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4787

S E C R E T SEOUL 5378

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV KS US
SUBJ: FORNMIN REQUESTS WRITTEN BUGGING DENIAL

BEGIN SUMMARY. FOREIGN MINISTER PAK TONG-JIN CALLED AMBASSADOR IN JUNE 28 AND PRESENTED HIM WITH AIDE MEMOIRE ON REPORTED ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE OF CHONG WA DAE (BLUE HOUSE) REQUESTING THAT "UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES GIVE THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT WRITTEN CLARIFICATION ON ITS POSITION ON THE ALLEGED ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE...AS REPORTED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES ON JUNE 19, 1977." END SUMMARY.

1. AIDE MEMOIRE RECALLS THAT WHEN U.S. MASS MEDIA CARRIED REPORTS IN DECEMBER 1976 ABOUT ALLEGED BUGGING, ROKG REQUESTED US "TO PUBLICLY DISAVOW THE KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH INCIDENTS SO AS TO CLARIFY THE MATTER ONCE AND FOR ALL." IT GOES ON TO STATE THAT ROKG BELIEVES OUR FAILURE TO PUBLICLY DENY PRESS REPORTS EARLIER HAS INVITED, "ANOTHER OUTBREAK OF FABRICATED NEWS REPORTS," ON BUGGING. AFTER QUOTING FROM JUNE 19 TIMES ARTICLE, AIDE MEMOIRE STATES, "THERE IS A STRONG IMPLICATION THAT THE REPORT HAS BEEN BASED ON LEAKED OUT STORIES FROM SOME OFFICIAL SOURCES IN THE UNITED STATES." AIDE MEMOIRE TAKES NOTE OF OUR ORAL DENIALS BUT NOTES "APPARENT INCONSISTENCY IN THE UNITED STATES PRACTICE OF NOT MAKING SECRET

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PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITS ALLEGED INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES INVOLVING CHONG WA DAE, WHILE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS KNOWN OT HAVE MADE PUBLIC DENIALS ON OTHER ALLEGED UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES IN THE PAST." MEMOIRE INDICATES THAT CONTINUED USG SILENCE WOULD UNNECESSARILY MILEAD THE GENERAL PUBLIC INTO BELIEVING THE PRESS REPORT VALID DESPITE PRIVATE DENIALS,

THEN REQUESTS USG WRITTEN CLARIFICATION ON ITS POSITION
ON THE ALLEGED ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE.

2. NOTING THAT BUGGING ISSUE HAD BEEN RAISED REPEATEDLY
DURING RECENT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY INTERPELLATIONS, FORNMIN
PAK SAID HE HAD FELT OBLIGED TO MAKE THIS REQUEST
FORMALLY. WHILE ALL KOREANS IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND
GOVERNMENT WISH TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE AND TO PROMOTE
BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND ROK, SENTIMENT WHITHIN
ROKG AND ASSEMBLY WAS VERY STRONG.

3. IN RESPONSE, DRAWING ON DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE, AMBASSADOR
REVIEWED PAST METHOD OF HANDLING BUGGING ISSUE, UNDERLINING
SIGNIFICANCE OF ORAL DENIALS WHICH HAVE BEEN GIVEN. AT THE
FOREIGN MINISTER'S SPECIFIC INSISTANCE, HE AGREED TO REPORT
ROKG REQUEST.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 28-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 22 May 2009
Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: FORNMIN REQUESTS WRITTEN BUGGING DENIAL BEGIN SUMMARY. FOREIGN MINISTER PAK TONG-JIN CALLED AMBASSADOR IN JUNE 28 AND PRESENTED HIM WITH AIDE
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8e048072-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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